

CHILD DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2016

This report is submitted to the Governor and General Assembly in accordance with Iowa Code Section 256A.3(8).

The Child Development Coordinating Council (CDCC) is comprised of members representing the following:

- Department of Human Services
- Division of Adult, Children, and Family Services, DHS
- Department of Education
- Department of Public Health
- Area Education Agencies
- Iowa State University, Human Sciences
- University of Iowa, Department of Pediatrics
- University of Northern Iowa, College of Education
- Head Start Parents
- Head Start Directors
- Child Care Resource and Referral
- Early Childhood Special Education

The CDCC advises and assists the Department of Education (Department) regarding the administration and implementation of Shared Visions Programs, state-funded programs for children with risk factors and their families.

The primary risk factor is defined as being a member of a low-income family which is at or below 125 percent of the federal poverty guidelines for parent support programs and 130 percent for preschool programs.

Secondary risk factors include having developmental delays; being born with a biological risk or to a parent under age 18; being in foster care or homeless; residing in a household where a parent or guardian has not completed high school, has been identified as a substance abuser or chronically mentally ill, is illiterate, incarcerated, or an abuser.

FY16 STATE FUNDING

Appropriation	\$8,536,740
Shared Visions Parent Support	\$836,752
Shared Visions Preschool	\$7,699,988

The Department administers two programs serving children with risk factors and their families:

- Shared Visions Parent Support Programs provide educational support services to parents of children ages birth to five years, with priority to applicants serving parents of children ages birth to three years.
- Shared Visions Preschool Programs provide quality, comprehensive child development programs for children ages three to five years.

MISSION

The mission of the CDCC is to advocate for Iowa's children and families and support model comprehensive child development and parent support programs for children with risk factors and their families. The CDCC ensures the development, delivery, and promotion of quality, family-centered comprehensive early childhood services through:

- parent support programs which enhance the skills of parents to support the learning and development of their children ages birth to five years;
- established minimum guidelines for comprehensive early child development services for children ages three to five years;
- cost-effective child development services for children ages three to five years; and
- comprehensive services such as child care, transportation, family support and education, developmental screening, and referral to health professionals.

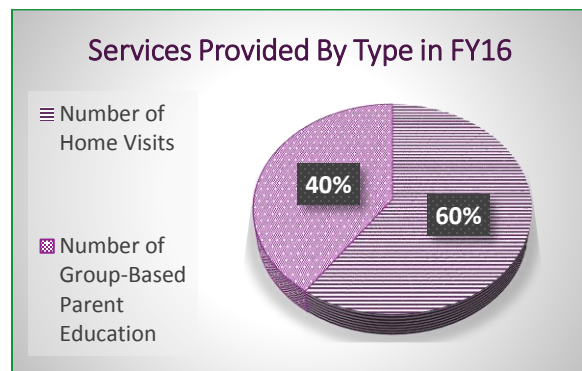
QUALITY PROGRAMMING

Shared Visions Parent Support Programs

“Quality early childhood education from birth to age five, coupled with parent coaching, such as home visitation programs for parents and teen mothers, has proven to be effective and warrants more investment” (Heckman, 2012).ⁱ

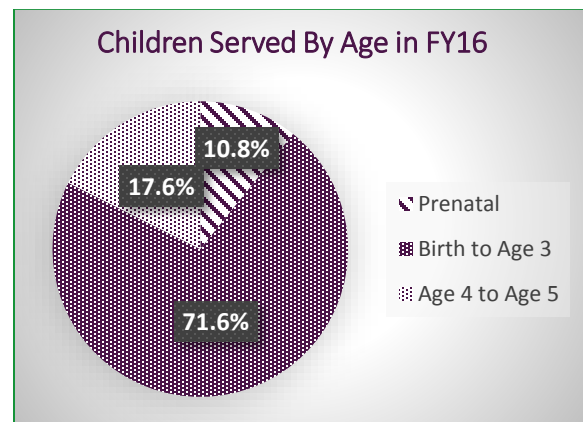
The Shared Visions Parent Support Programs provide services for families with incomes below 125 percent of the poverty level and who have children with risk factors. In FY16, six Shared Visions Parent Support Programs were awarded grants in five counties. All grantees were validated through external evaluation to meet standards of high quality by earning the Iowa Family Support Credential.

A total of 873 families were served through home visitation, group-based parent education, or a combination of the two types of services. A total of 3,894 home visits and 5,803 group-based parent education meetings were provided over the course of the grant year.



Supports focused on parenting skills, child growth and development, building of self-concept, nutrition, positive guidance techniques, family resource management, and parent literacy, as well as accessing the array of supportive services from a network of agencies that are available to families.

Additionally, a total of 1,010 children were served with 109 being prenatal, 723 ages birth to three years, and 178 ages four to five years.



Shared Visions Parent Support Programs also assisted in identifying children in need of early intervention services provided in Iowa’s Early ACCESS system. In FY16, a total of 28 children received early childhood special education services with more than half of those children being identified after program enrollment. In receiving early intervention services, families are able to better meet their children’s special needs from an early age and throughout their lives.

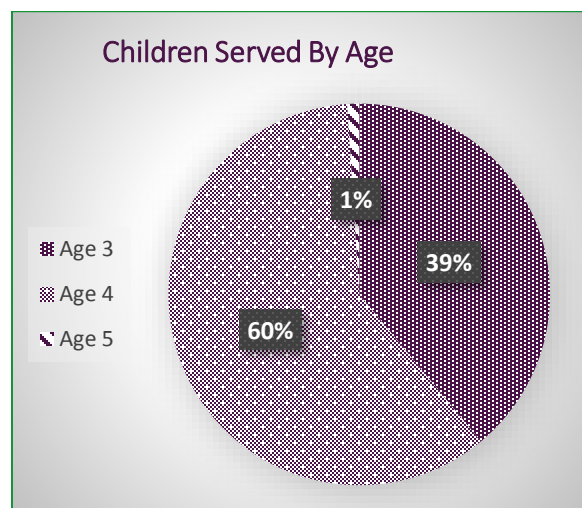
A father came to our program and was struggling to keep his family afloat. They had recently moved to Iowa; and his wife had severe mental health needs requiring frequent hospitalization. The father had a job but his wife was unable to care for their children. He was missing work and was in danger of losing his job. We immediately connected him to a family support worker who spoke his native language. The family was able to enroll their 3-year old child into the Shared Visions Preschool Program; and the family support worker helped the family locate care for their other child. The family support worker helped the family negotiate the medical system and gain some stability for the mother’s needs allowing them to be manageable with routine care. The father began attending ELL classes in the evenings, with childcare provided through Shared Visions, and began to develop social supports. This spring, the preschool-aged child was able to demonstrate proficiency in the age-normed standards of the Teaching Strategies GOLD[®] assessment and is on track to start kindergarten ready to learn.”

—Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County

Shared Visions Preschool Programs

“We know that preschool can provide the developmentally stimulating experiences that many children growing up in poverty lack. The evidence is incontrovertible.” (Lamy, 2013).ⁱⁱ

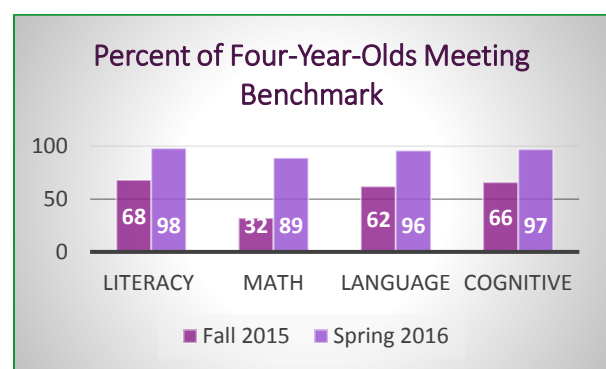
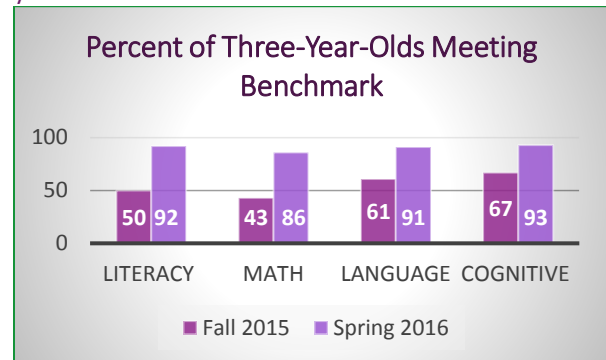
In FY16, a total of 67 Shared Visions Preschool Program grants were awarded across 37 counties to provide children ages three to five years a quality, comprehensive preschool program. Of the 1,399 children enrolled, 547 were age three, 840 were age four, and 12 were age five. Grantees also reported an additional 780 income eligible children who remained on waiting lists during the year.



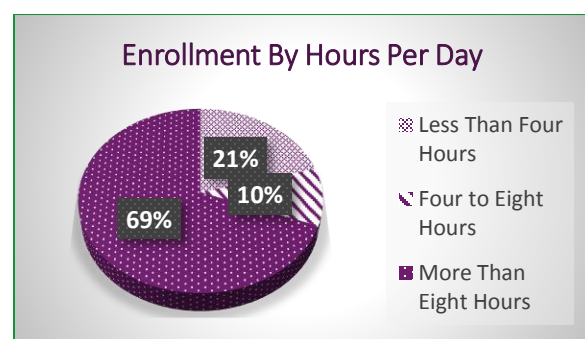
Shared Visions Preschool Programs enrolled 94 percent of children based on income levels of at or below 130 percent of poverty. The remaining six percent were over income guidelines but eligible based on secondary risk factors. Sixteen percent, or 223 children, received early childhood special education services through an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Providing high quality services to children with risk factors is a distinguishing characteristic of Shared Visions Preschool Programs. All grantees are required to achieve and maintain accreditation by National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the national standard of highest quality for early childhood programs. Additionally, all programs must use a common statewide child assessment, the *Teaching Strategies GOLD® Online Assessment System*. Reports from FY16 show that children’s knowledge, skills, and behaviors met the

range of expected growth. As shown in the charts below, the percent of children meeting or exceeding expectations greatly increased over the course of the year.



Shared Visions Preschool Programs are encouraged to consider partnerships and collaborative relationships that allow them to address the gaps within their communities and best serve children and families. In FY16, children received varying amounts of programming per day based on local program design and collaborative efforts. The majority of children, or 968, received more than eight hours per day, which included extended preschool services or wrap-around child care. Other program designs offered 140 children between four and eight hours of programming per day while 291 children received less than four hours per day.



RECOMMENDATIONS

The Child Development Coordinating Council recommends the following:

- Increase access and duration of services for families and children with risk factors
- Explore opportunities for mixed delivery programs to meet family and community needs
- Improve services for diverse families and children
- Maintain accreditation status and enhance overall program quality
- Increase administrative capacity and awareness related to early childhood programming and services
- Strengthen Area Education Agencies' connections and supports for all types of programs

ⁱ Heckman, J. (2012). *The Heckman Equation: Invest in Early Childhood Development: Reduce Deficits, Strengthen the Economy*. Pritzker Children's Initiative. Retrieved from www.heckmanequation.org

ⁱⁱ Lamy, C. (2013, May). How Preschool Fights Poverty. *Educational Leadership*. 70(8), 32-36.